

Acacia in Action

Respect Collaboration Integrity Understanding Adaptability 21th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We had a busy time last week with the School Review. It was a very thorough process in which most staff, quite a few students and some parents and carers were interviewed. The final report will be with us in a week or so. The review confirmed that we are on the right track with our 2020 ASIP, focusing on Vision and Values, a whole school curriculum and assessment plan and a whole school instructional model. The recommendations from the review will help us shape a solid four year strategic plan with clear targets and clear means of measuring progress.

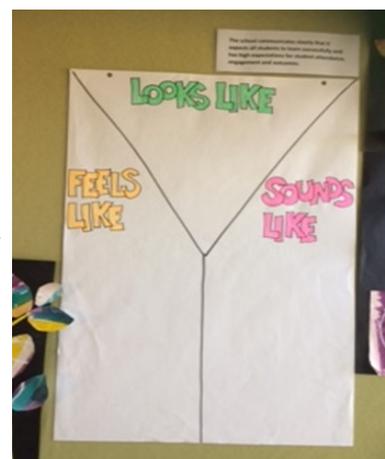
School Vision and Values

For our work on Vision and Values, we need to hear from you. We have some Y-charts in the front office where you can comment on what Acacia Hill School would LOOK LIKE, FEEL LIKE and SOUND LIKE if it did these things perfectly:

The School Council, school principal and other school leaders, staff, students and school community are united, committed to and explicit about their core objective – to improve learning outcomes for all students in the school.

The school communicates clearly that it expects all students to learn successfully and has high expectations for student attendance, engagement and outcomes.

The school appreciates and values students' varying cultural backgrounds and works to build the cultural competence of school staff.



If you're not quite sure what to do, ask Jodie or Teegan at the front desk.

Also, we have a lot of great ideas and practices at Acacia Hill. There are also different great ideas and practices in other places. We invite you to add things you know about from other places to the 'Ideas from Other Places' chart in the front office.

New staff

We welcome Jazmynn Mata'afa and Cassie Power as relief SESOs and Cassie may also do some relief teaching in the Preschool.

Chief Executive of the NT Department of Education

Vicki Baylis retired as CE of the NT Department of Education on 14th February. Leanne Nixon, who has been Deputy CE, will be acting in the CE role for four weeks while the position is finalized.

Physio Students

We will have two James Cook University physiotherapy students with us from 2nd March – 3rd April under the supervision of Anne Bent.



Karis Moffatt

Karis is from Cairns and is studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy. She enjoys playing all kinds of sport, being outdoors and she is excited to meet everyone!

Simone Tsang

Simone is a fourth year physiotherapy student. She enjoys exploring new places – especially finding out the best places to eat! She likes playing board games and spending time with friends and family. She invites people to come and chat with her – she loves meeting new people.



School Council

School Council meetings are held on Fridays commencing at 10:00am. Justine Petrick is our School Council Chair. School Council is a great opportunity for parents and carers to have more involvement and say in Acacia Hill School. On 6th March we will have an Annual General Meeting followed by a Special General Meeting.

- 6th March – AGM and Special General Meeting
- 3rd April
- 8th May
- 12th June
- 7th August
- 4th September
- 16th October
- 13th November

The School Review team affirmed that we have a caring, united staff team, and I look forward to continuing to working with you all 😊 this year!

Kind regards,

Julie Permezel

Back to School Voucher:

Please come to the office soon to utilize your back to school voucher, which finishes at the end of Term 1 2020. A form is being sent home with students with a price/uniform list. Swimming remains at \$80 this year.

Dates Coming up

- 9:30am Friday 28th February Assembly
- Monday 2nd March – Friday 3rd April JCU physiotherapy students at Acacia Hill School
- 8:30-11:30am Tuesday 3rd March Pop Up Playgroup (Playgroup NT) in our new Family Room
- 10:00am Friday 6th March School Council AGM and Special General Meeting
- 9:30am Friday 13th March Assembly
- 9:30am Friday 27th March Assembly
- Monday 30th March Whole Staff PD Day with Tracey Ezard – parents and carers very welcome to join us – developing Shared Vision and Values
- 10:00am Friday 3rd April School Council

Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions

From the School Council Chair

School Council has resumed again for 2020 with our first meeting held last week. Ms. Julie and her team have been doing a great job in reviewing the School's values and direction that we want to head in for the next 3 years. There is opportunity for everyone to contribute to this, you can add to the posters that are up in the office at the moment, just waiting for ideas about what's important to our school and our students as we look towards the future. Please have your say! Once our vision is clear, we will continue to work on a new school logo in conjunction with students and staff.

We have an upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) and morning tea on **Friday 6th March at 10am in the School Hall**. If you are interested in what School Council does or are thinking about nominating for a role on School Council, please come along as we would love to have you.

Some info about School Council:

- consists of a nominated group of people, 50% of the positions are held by parents & carers, the rest by students and staff from the school
- the group represents the school community and provides input into the direction and development of the school's Strategic Plan and Improvement Plans
- the group has a role to promote the school to the wider community and look for ways to improve and/or implement strategies to develop family-school partnerships
- provides input into, and approves school policies
- oversees various maintenance aspects and minor new work projects of the school
- lays a role (albeit a distant one) in the employment of select staff positions that work within the school
- the group is allowed to undertake fundraising activities that are in the best interests of the school
- the group oversees and monitors the school's budget and approves the distribution of the budget in line with the school's direction and objectives.

So as you can see, many aspects of how the school functions are touched upon by School Council. There are many roles in School Council, you don't have to nominate for a specific role however if you have skills in areas such as finance, we would love for you to consider joining the Council. If you're happy to be a Board Member, that's ok too!

EXPECTATIONS

Your commitment to the Council consists of approximately 30 minutes of pre-reading to prepare for a meeting, and 90 minutes for the Ordinary meeting that is held on a Friday, once a month. If you wish to come onto School Council, you will need to have a Working with Children Clearance. This is an online application that can be done after you have come onto School Council and costs \$7 as it is in a volunteer role.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Miss Julie, or any of the current School Council member: Johnathon, Ann-Marie, Brigida, Ross or myself.

Or you can contact me on 0437 842 182 or justinelpetrick@gmail.com

I'm looking forward to another rewarding year!

Justine Petrick